

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising a mixture of a zinc alloy powder and an additional metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In.

2. (Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising a mixture of a zinc alloy powder and an additional metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In incorporated therein in an amount of 50 - 1000 ppm by weight based on the amount of said zinc alloy powder.

5. (Amended) The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of 100 μ m or less.

6. (Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising a mixture of a powder of a metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In and a zinc alloy powder, said mixture being prepared by dry mixing said metallic powder and said zinc alloy powder.

7. (Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising the step of mixing a zinc alloy powder with an additional metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In.

8. (Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising the step of mixing a zinc alloy powder with an additional metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In, said additional metal being added in an amount of 50 to 1000 ppm by weight based on the weight of the zinc alloy powder.

11. (Amended) The method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said additional metal is a metallic powder with an average particle size of 100 μ m or less.

12. (Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising the step of dry mixing a zinc alloy powder with a powder of an additional metal selected from the group consisting of Bi and In.

Please cancel claims 3 and ~~8~~, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

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13. (New) The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said additional metal is bismuth.

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14. (New) The negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell according to claim 13, wherein the bismuth is added in an amount which is no less than 500 ppm.